

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 25 as follows:

For each of the objects remaining after stage 22, a local region of interest (ROI) is selected. This ROI is centred on the nominal centre of the object (as found in stage 21), and has an ~~a specified~~ extent of 50 pixels in each direction, the region size being truncated as necessary to ensure the ROI lies within the bounds of the original image. This allows ROIs which would otherwise overlap the edges of the image to be included. Alternatively the ROIs could be defined ~~given a specified extent~~ by taking the regions identified in stage 22 and adding a border of a selected number of pixels. In either case, it is desirable that the ROIs exceed the size of those regions somewhat in order to ensure the generation of the low-resolution contours.